

## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for sealing a subcutaneous tissue puncture. The method and apparatus reduce the occurrence of anchor shuttling by stiffening a tip or end portion of an insertion sheath that acts as a one-way valve to a closure device anchor. The stiffening of the tip reduces shuttling by reducing or eliminating the tendency of prior insertion sheath tips from puckering and creating a gap into which the anchor may reenter. The method of stiffening may take on many different mechanisms, several of which are disclosed.